



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*  
John Hoeven  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**ARBOR DAY**  
May 7, 2004

**WHEREAS**, cottonwood trees are an important component of North Dakota's native forests, and have made valuable contributions throughout our state's history; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans and early American explorers depended on the cottonwoods along the Missouri River for survival, providing hunting, fishing and recreation opportunities, building materials, fuel, horse feed, and antiseptic; and

**WHEREAS**, cottonwoods played a significant role in the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, providing canoes for speedier and more maneuverable transportation up the Missouri River and shelter to protect them during the winter of 1804-05; and

**WHEREAS**, the Smith Grove cottonwoods are North Dakota's historic link to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and in honor of the Bicentennial, the North Dakota Forest Service collected seeds from the 300-year-old trees and grew historic Lewis and Clark Cottonwoods; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's State Arbor Day theme is "Cottonwoods at the Confluence," and on that day, an historic Lewis and Clark Cottonwood will be planted at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center to emphasize the historical importance of the cottonwoods and to reintroduce this native tree to North Dakota's landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, by planting cottonwood trees, we are preserving North Dakota's resources for centuries to come; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 7, 2004, **ARBOR DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

/s/  
John Hoeven  
Governor

Attest:

/s/  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State